

statement no less novel than true. Yet a moment's reflection will show that a country abounding in wolves, foxes, hyænas, antelopes, bovine antelopes, and gazelles, bustards and sandgrouse, can scarcely be a part of the Malay or so-called Indian zoological province, where not a single representative of one of these animals exists. In this very instance, the squirrels attributed in error to India proper belong to a group shown by Mr. Blyth (Cat. Mam. Mus. As. Soc. p. 101, note) to be peculiar to the Indo-Chinese and Malay countries, and foreign to the peninsula of India with Ceylon. And that this most important fact of the mixture of African and Malay forms, the former prevailing in the plains, the latter in the hills, and perhaps on the Malabar coast of the Indian peninsula, is not recognized generally by European naturalists, I believe to be mainly due to the careless way in which specimens are labelled "India," when in reality they come from other parts of South-east Asia.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Aden, Dec. 15th, 1867.

WILLIAM T. BLANFORD.

*Preservation of Objects of Natural History.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—I am not aware whether the following practical hint on the preservation of natural-history objects in glycerine is known or not; but, taking the risk of its being known, as it is a useful one, I send it for insertion in the 'Annals' if it be worth anything.

The specimens are to be soaked thoroughly for some days in the glycerine, the glycerine is then to be poured off, all but some five or six drops, and the bottle is to be well corked. I have by me some specimens of a species of *Vaginulus*, from Mauritius, which were, by accident, prepared in this way, and they look now (nearly one year since they were preserved) as fresh as they were on the next day after they were collected.

Of course the chief value of this method consists in its economy: and none who have tried glycerine as a preserving medium, but, I should think, would prefer it to alcohol; but the expense has hitherto been a bar to its common use.

I am, your obedient Servant,

WILMOT H. T. POWER,

Portland, Dorsetshire.

*Assistant-Surgeon, 13th Light Infantry.*

*On Leskia mirabilis.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Professor Lovén has received some specimens of this interesting Echinoderm, which I first published in the second series of this Journal, vol. vii. p. 134, and figured in the Catalogue of the Recent Echinidæ or Sea-eggs in the British Museum, t. 4. f. 4. They were obtained by Mr. Kinberg in the Indian seas between Singapore and Batavia. Dr. Lovén, in a paper in the Proceedings of the Swedish Academy for 1867, confirms the opinion that I expressed in the Museum Catalogue, that it is intermediate between the Spatangoid